Montana Water Court PO Box 1389 Bozeman, MT 59771-1389 (406) 586-4364 1-800-624-3270 watercourt@mt.gov FILED
01/03/2023
Sara Calkins
CLERK
Montana Water Court
STATE OF MONTANA
By: D'Ann CIGLER
39E-0178-P-2022
Stern, Anika
4.00

IN THE WATER COURT OF THE STATE OF MONTANA
YELLOWSTONE DIVISION
BOX ELDER CREEK BASIN (39E)
PRELIMINARY DECREE

CLAIMANTS: James L. Hendricks; Jed R. Hendricks

CASE 39E-0178-P-2022 39E 129236-00 39E 129237-00

NOTICE OF FILING OF MASTER'S REPORT

This Master's Report was filed with the Montana Water Court on the above-stamped date. Please review this report carefully.

You may file a written objection to this Master's Report within **10 days** of the stamped date if you disagree or find errors with the Master's findings of fact, conclusions of law, or recommendations. Rule 23, W.R.Adj.R. If the Master's Report was mailed to you, the Montana Rules of Civil Procedure allow an additional 3 days be added to the 10-day objection period. Rule 6(d), M.R.Civ.P. If you file an objection, you must serve a copy of the objection to all parties on the service list found at the end of the Master's Report. The original objection and a certificate of mailing to all parties on the service list must be filed with the Water Court.

If you do not file a timely objection, the Water Court will conclude that you agree with the content of this Master's Report.

MASTER'S REPORT

FINDINGS OF FACT

- 1. James L. Hendricks and Jed R. Hendricks are the record owners of claims 39E 129236-00 and 39E 129237-00.
 - 2. Claims 39E 129236-00 and 39E 129237-00 were decreed with DNRC issue

remarks:

39E 129236-00:

THE POINT OF DIVERSION LEGAL LAND DESCRIPTION COULD NOT BE REFINED FROM INFORMATION IN THE CLAIM FILE.

EXISTENCE OF THE CLAIMED RESERVOIR CANNOT BE CONFIRMED WITH AVAILABLE DATA.

39E 129237-00:

EXISTENCE OF THE CLAIMED RESERVOIR CANNOT BE CONFIRMED WITH AVAILABLE DATA.

Additionally, both claims were decreed with ownership issue remarks; the remarks are outdated and do not need to be addressed.

- 3. The Claimants were ordered to meet with the DNRC to address the issue remarks.
- 4. On October 27, 2022, DNRC Water Resource Specialist Brandy Gray filed a Memorandum stating the Claimants failed to contact the DNRC. A copy of the October 27, 2022 Memorandum is attached to this Report. Ms. Gray reviewed the claim files, the 1960 Water Resource Survey, and aerial photos to prepare the Memorandum.

Claim 39E 129236-00:

Ms. Gray indicated that she was unable to locate a dike or reservoir within the claimed point of diversion. Additionally, "From the contour lines and aerial photos, it doesn't appear that the claimed place of use can be irrigated from any point of diversion located in the SWSWSW of Sec. 3 or the NWNW of Sec. 10, T1S, R59E." Ms. Gray declined to make a recommendation for claim 39E 129236-00. Based on this Water Master's analysis, and without evidence from the Claimant, it appears claim 39E 129236-00 should be dismissed.

Claim 39E 129237-00:

Ms. Gray indicated that she was able to locate the claimed reservoir, but it appears to have been washed-out for an extended period. Based on this information, it appears claim 39E 129237-00 should be dismissed.

5. An Order was issued setting a December 16, 2022 deadline for Claimants James L. Hendricks and Jed R. Hendricks to file statements agreeing or disagreeing that claims 39E 129236-00 and 39E 129237-00 be dismissed. The Order stated that if nothing

were filed by the deadline, this Master would conclude the Claimants agree the claims should be dismissed. The following language was included in the Order:

Failure to comply with the terms of this Order may result in sanctions, <u>up to and including entry of default and termination of a water right claim or dismissal of objections</u>. Rule 22, W.R.Adj.R.

Nothing was filed by the deadline.

PRINCIPLES AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- 1. A properly filed Statement of Claim for an existing water right is prima facie proof of its content. Section 85-2-227, MCA. This prima facie validity may be overcome by evidence showing that one or more elements of the claim are incorrect. This standard of proof applies to objectors or claimants objecting to their own water right claims. Rule 19, W.R.Adj.R., *Nelson v. Brooks*, 2014 MT 120; 375 Mont.86, 95; 329 P.3d 558, 564.
- 2. The Water Court must address all issue remarks decreed on a claim. Section 85-2-248, MCA.
- 3. Pursuant to Rule 22, W.R.Adj.R., if a claimant, objector, or intervenor fails to appear at a scheduled conference or hearing or fails to comply with an order issued by the Water Court, the Water Court may issue such orders of sanction with regard thereto as are just.

RECOMMENDATION

1. Claims 39E 129236-00 and 39E 129237-00 should be dismissed.

Post Decree Abstracts of Water Right Claims are served with the Report for review.

ELECTRONICALLY SIGNED AND DATED BELOW.

Service via USPS Mail:

James L. Hendricks 961 Hwy 323 Ekalaka, MT 59324

Jed R. Hendricks 104 Breding Rd Ekalaka, MT 59324

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION

Billings Water Resources Office

GREG GIANFORTE, GOVERNOR



PHONE: (406)247-4415 Airport Business Park FAX: (406)247-4416 1371 Rimtop Dr, Billings, MT 59105-1978

ELECTRONICALLY FILED

MEMORANDUM

<u>DATE:</u> October 26, 2022 39E-0178-P-2022

<u>CASE HEADING:</u> **39E-0178-P-2022** October 27, 2022

CLAIMS: 39E 129236-00, 39E 129237-00

TO: Anika M. Stern

Senior Water Master Montana Water Court

FROM: Brandy Gray

Billings Water Resource Specialist

<u>CLAIMANT:</u> James L. Hendricks and Jed R. Hendricks

INTRODUCTION:

The September 27, 2022, Order from the Montana Water Court required James L. Hendricks and Jed R Hendricks, to contact DNRC no later than October 14, 2022, to resolve issue remarks and submit any documents needed to support resolution no later than October 28, 2022. It was further ordered that the DNRC provide a Memorandum, by November 11, 2022, of recommendations on the results or file a notice with the Water Court informing the Water Court that the issue remarks were not resolved by the deadline. Furthermore, if the Claimant doesn't contact the DNRC, it was requested that the DNRC make recommendations for the disposition of the issue remarks.

MATERIALS REVIEWED:

Information in the claim files, 1960 Water Resource Survey (WRS), WRS aerial photo no. MA-32-99 & MA-32-100, dated 1944, Earth Explorer USGS aerial photo no. 1VDAP00020180, dated August 5, 1972, USDA aerial photo no. 179-30, dated September 3, 1979, MT State Library NAIP true color and infrared (IR) aerial photos dated, 2009, 2011, 2013, 2015, 2017 & 2019, contour lines and hillshade on the State of Montana Lidar Viewer and Google Earth aerials currently available online, served as the primary data sources for this Memorandum.

State of Montana Lidar Viewer are located:

https://montana.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=55cc886ec7d2416d85beca68d05686f4

USGS aerial photos are located: https://earthexplorer.usgs.gov/

DISCUSSION:

As of October 26, 2022, DNRC has not received contact from the Claimants.

CLAIM 39E 129236-00: 1949 IRRIGATION, in Sections 3 & 10, T1S, R59E, out of an unnamed tributary of Little Ramme Creek.

Issue Remarks:

P36 – THE POINT OF DIVERSION LEGAL LAND DESCRIPTION COULD NOT BE REFINED FROM INFORMATION IN THE CLAIM FILE.

R100 - EXISTENCE OF THE CLAIMED RESERVOIR CANNOT BE CONFIRMED WITH AVAILABLE DATA.

DNRC reviewed the claim map in the file, the Montana Lidar Viewer contour lines, the above WRS Survey, USDA, USGS and NAIP aerial photos and was unable to locate a dike or reservoir within the claimed point of diversion.

There is a reservoir located in the NWNWNW of Sec. 10, T1S, R59E. It is approximately in the same location as the #9 written on the claim map and at the top of the claim form. This reservoir is claimed as the point of diversion for water right no. 39E 129232-00. From the contour lines and aerial photos, it doesn't appear that the claimed place of use can be irrigated from any point of diversion located in the SWSWSW of Sec. 3 or the NWNW of Sec. 10, T1S, R59E.

RECOMMENDATION:

Based on the above information, DNRC was unable to locate the point of diversion or the reservoir for 39E 129236-00 and is unable to make a recommendation at this time. The Claimant's assistance is needed to locate the point of diversion.

CLAIM 39E 129237-00: 1908 IRRIGATION, in Sections 2 & 3, T1S, R59E, out of an unnamed tributary of Little Ramme Creek.

Issue Remarks:

R100 - EXISTENCE OF THE CLAIMED RESERVOIR CANNOT BE CONFIRMED WITH AVAILABLE DATA.

DNRC reviewed the Montana Lidar Viewer contour lines and hill shade, the 1960 WRS Survey, the above WRS, USDA and NAIP aerial photos and was able to locate a washed-out dike/reservoir in the NW of Gov. Lot 7, as claimed. This is in the same location as the #11 written on the claim map and at the top of the claim form. DNRC was able to locate scaring on the south side of the creek and downstream of the washed-out dike/reservoir, where it appears, dirt was removed to create the dike/reservoir.

RECOMMENDATION:

DNRC was able to locate a washed-out dike/reservoir in the NW of Gov. Lot 7 as claimed and it appears that reservoir issue remark (R100) is resolved and can be removed. However, based on the above information, it appears that it has been washed-out for an extended period of time.

DATE: October 26, 2022, by: /S/ Brandy Gray

Brandy Gray, Water Resource Specialist Billings Water Resources Regional Office

(406) 247-4426

DATE: October 26, 2022, by:

/s/ Mark Elison

Mark Elison, Regional Manager Billings Water Resources Regional Office

Enclosures:

- (2) Blue marked General Abstracts.
- 39E 129236-00:
 - o Copy of claim map
 - o 1972 USGS aerial photo
 - o 1979 USDA aerial photo
 - o 2011 NAIP IR aerial photo
 - o 2011 NAIP aerial photo with MT Lidar contour lines
- 39E 129237-00:
 - Copy of claim map
 - o 1944 WRS aerial photo with the 1960 WRS Survey
 - o 1979 USDA aerial photo
 - o 2009 NAIP IR aerial photo
 - o Aerial photo with MT Lidar contour lines
 - o MT Lidar hillshade and contour lines

Service via email: Anika M. Stern

Montana Water Court

PO Box 1389

Bozeman, MT 59771-1389

watercourt@mt.gov

Service via USPS Mail:

James L. Hendricks

961 Hwy 323

Ekalaka, MT 59324

Jed R. Hendricks 104 Breding Rd

Ekalaka, MT 59324

STATE OF MONTANA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION

1424 9TH AVENUE P.O. BOX 201601 HELENA, MONTANA 59620-1601

GENERAL ABSTRACT

Water Right Number: 39E 129236-00 STATEMENT OF CLAIM

Version: 2 -- REEXAMINED

Version Status: ACTIVE

Owners: JAMES L HENDRICKS

961 HWY 323

EKALAKA, MT 59324

JED R HENDRICKS 104 BREDING RD EKALAKA, MT 59324

Priority Date: NOVEMBER 15, 1949

Enforceable Priority Date: NOVEMBER 15, 1949

Type of Historical Right: FILED

Purpose (Use): IRRIGATION

Irrigation Type: WATER SPREADING

Maximum Flow Rate: A SPECIFIC FLOW RATE HAS NOT BEEN DECREED BECAUSE THIS USE

CONSISTS OF DIRECT FLOW WATER SPREADING.

Maximum Volume: 361.20 AC-FT

Climatic Area: 2 - MODERATELY HIGH

Maximum Acres: 172.00

Source Name: UNNAMED TRIBUTARY OF LITTLE RAMME CREEK

Source Type: SURFACE WATER

Point of Diversion and Means of Diversion:

IDGovt LotQtr SecSecTwpRgeCounty1SWSWSW31S59ECARTER

Period of Diversion: JANUARY 1 TO DECEMBER 31

Diversion Means: DIKE

Reservoir: ON STREAM

Govt Lot Otr Sec Sec Twp Rge County
SWSWSW 3 1S 59E CARTER

Diversion to Reservoir: DIVERSION # 1

Period of Use: JANUARY 1 to DECEMBER 31

Place of Use:

<u>ID</u> 1	Acres Govt Lot	<u>Qtr Sec</u> W2SE	<u>Sec</u> 3	<u>Twp</u> 1S	<u>Rge</u> 59E	<u>County</u> CARTER
2	55.00	NW	10	1S	59E	CARTER
3	58.00	SW	3	1S	59E	CARTER
4	45.00	W2NE	10	1S	59E	CARTER

October 17, 2022 Page 2 of 4
39E 129236-00 General Abstract

Total: 172.00

Geocodes/Valid: 42-0962-03-1-01-01000 - Y 42-0962-03-3-01-01-A400 - Y

42-0962-10-2-01-01-0000 - Y

Remarks:

P36

R100 L

THE WATER RIGHTS FOLLOWING THIS STATEMENT ARE SUPPLEMENTAL WHICH MEANS THE RIGHTS HAVE OVERLAPPING PLACES OF USE. THE RIGHTS CAN BE COMBINED TO IRRIGATE ONLY OVERLAPPING PARCELS. EACH RIGHT IS LIMITED TO THE FLOW RATE AND PLACE OF USE OF THAT INDIVIDUAL RIGHT. THE SUM TOTAL VOLUME OF THESE WATER RIGHTS SHALL NOT EXCEED THE AMOUNT PUT TO HISTORICAL AND BENEFICIAL USE.

129229-00 129230-00 129231-00 129232-00 129233-00 129234-00

129235-00 129236-00 129240-00 129241-00

STARTING IN 2008, PERIOD OF DIVERSION WAS ADDED TO MOST CLAIM ABSTRACTS, INCLUDING THIS ONE.

OWNERSHIP UPDATE RECEIVED

OWNERSHIP UPDATE TYPE 608 # 35228 RECEIVED 04/05/2006.

ACCORDING TO CADASTRAL PROPERTY OWNERSHIP RECORDS, AS OF 07/10/2018, THE PROPERTY ON WHICH THIS WATER RIGHT IS USED APPEARS TO BE OWNED BY JED R HENDRICKS, JAMES L HENDRICKS, HAZEL HENDRICKS, KATHLEEN L MARKS AND IRENE HENDRICKS.

THE POINT OF DIVERSION LEGAL LAND DESCRIPTION COULD NOT BE REFINED FROM INFORMATION IN THE CLAIM FILE.

EXISTENCE OF THE CLAIMED RESERVOIR CANNOT BE CONFIRMED WITH AVAILABLE DATA.

STATE OF MONTANA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION

1424 9TH AVENUE P.O. BOX 201601 HELENA, MONTANA 59620-1601

GENERAL ABSTRACT

Water Right Number: 39E 129237-00 STATEMENT OF CLAIM

Version: 2 -- REEXAMINED

Version Status: ACTIVE

Owners: JAMES L HENDRICKS

961 HWY 323

EKALAKA, MT 59324

JED R HENDRICKS 104 BREDING RD EKALAKA, MT 59324

Priority Date: JUNE 5, 1908

Enforceable Priority Date: JUNE 5, 1908

Type of Historical Right: FILED

Purpose (Use): IRRIGATION

Irrigation Type: WATER SPREADING

Maximum Flow Rate: A SPECIFIC FLOW RATE HAS NOT BEEN DECREED BECAUSE THIS USE

CONSISTS OF DIRECT FLOW WATER SPREADING.

Maximum Volume: 451.50 AC-FT

Climatic Area: 2 - MODERATELY HIGH

Maximum Acres: 215.00

Source Name: UNNAMED TRIBUTARY OF LITTLE RAMME CREEK

Source Type: SURFACE WATER

Point of Diversion and Means of Diversion:

 ID
 Govt Lot
 Qtr Sec
 Sec
 Twp
 Rge
 County

 1
 7
 NE
 3
 1S
 59E
 CARTER

Period of Diversion: JANUARY 1 TO DECEMBER 31

Diversion Means: DIKE

Reservoir: ON STREAM

 Govt Lot
 Qtr Sec
 Sec
 Twp
 Rge
 County

 NE
 3
 1S
 59E
 CARTER

Diversion to Reservoir: DIVERSION # 1

Period of Use: JANUARY 1 to DECEMBER 31

Place of Use:

<u>ID</u> 1	<u>Acres</u> 16.00	Govt Lot	<u>Otr Sec</u> NWSW	<u>Sec</u> 2	<u>Twp</u> 1S	<u>Rge</u> 59E	<u>County</u> CARTER
2	21.00	1	NE	3	1S	59E	CARTER
3	31.00		SENE	3	1S	59E	CARTER
4	33.00		NESE	3	1S	59E	CARTER

5	38.00		SWNE	3	1S	59E	CARTER
6	10.00		SENW	3	1S	59E	CARTER
7	2.00	6	NW	3	1S	59E	CARTER
8	38.00	7	NE	3	1S	59E	CARTER
9	24.00	2	NE	3	1S	59E	CARTER
10	2.00	3	NW	3	1S	59E	CARTER
Total:	215.00						

Geocodes/Valid: 42-0962-02-3-02-01-0000 - Y 42-0962-03-1-01-01-0000 - Y

Remarks:

THE WATER RIGHTS FOLLOWING THIS STATEMENT ARE SUPPLEMENTAL WHICH MEANS THE RIGHTS HAVE OVERLAPPING PLACES OF USE. THE RIGHTS CAN BE COMBINED TO IRRIGATE ONLY OVERLAPPING PARCELS. EACH RIGHT IS LIMITED TO THE FLOW RATE AND PLACE OF USE OF THAT INDIVIDUAL RIGHT. THE SUM TOTAL VOLUME OF THESE WATER RIGHTS SHALL NOT EXCEED THE AMOUNT PUT TO HISTORICAL AND BENEFICIAL USE.

129228-00 129237-00 129238-00 129239-00

STARTING IN 2008, PERIOD OF DIVERSION WAS ADDED TO MOST CLAIM ABSTRACTS, INCLUDING THIS ONE.

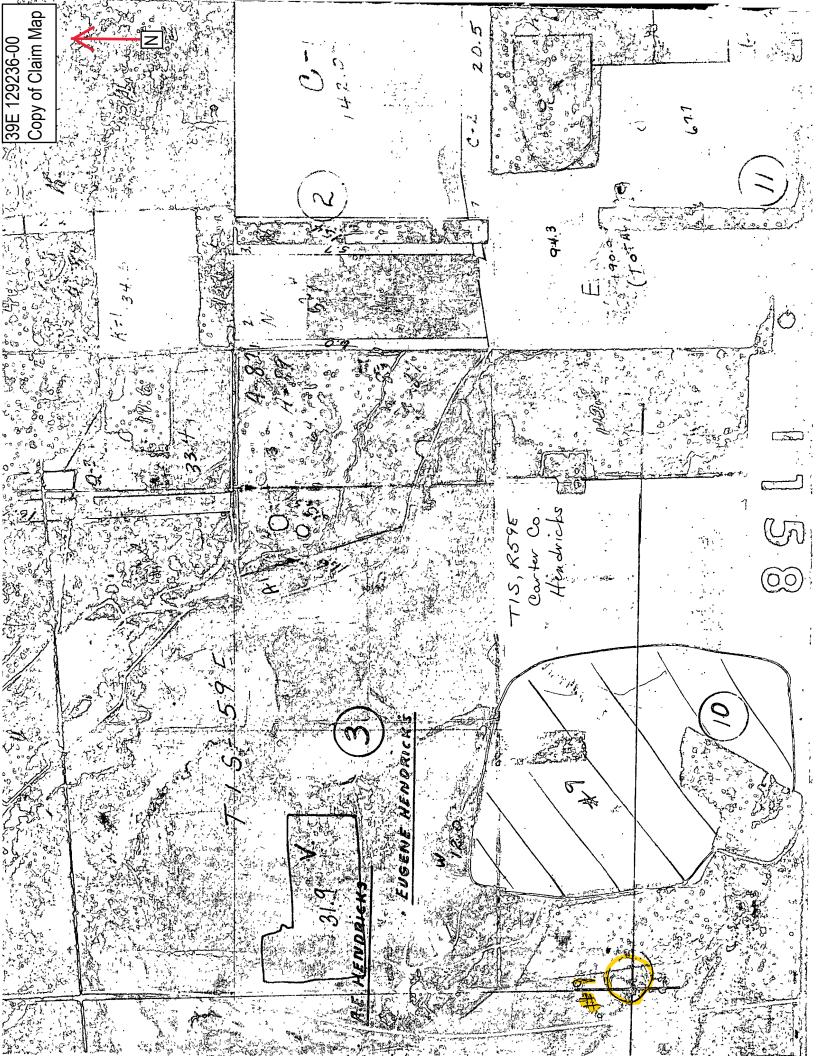
OWNERSHIP UPDATE RECEIVED

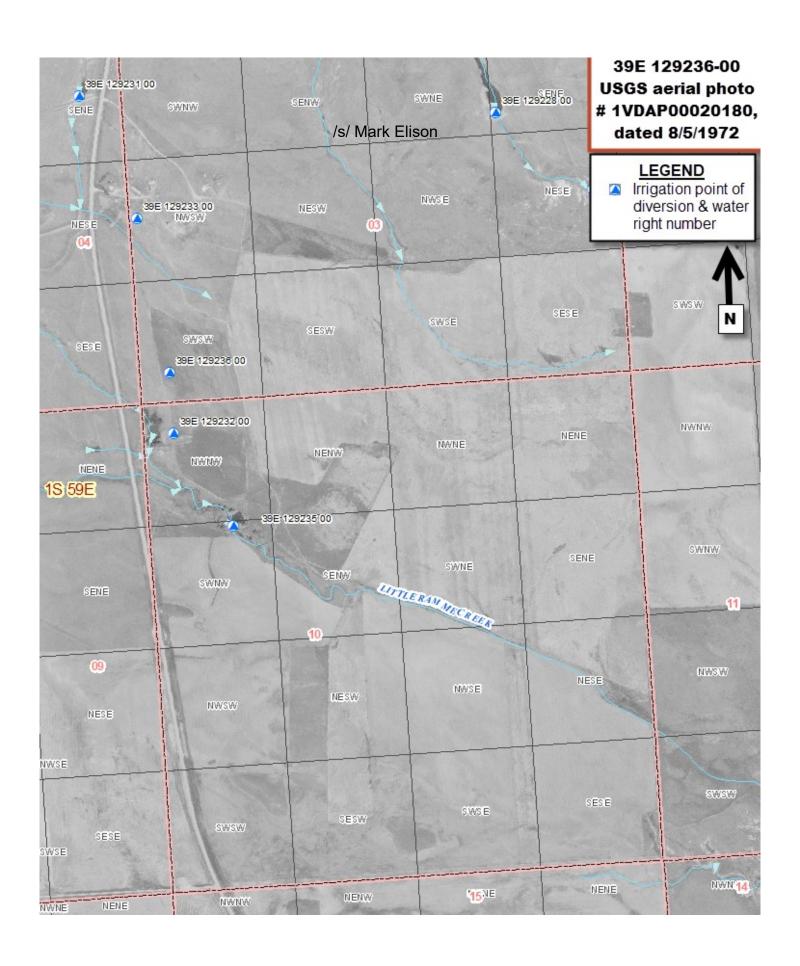
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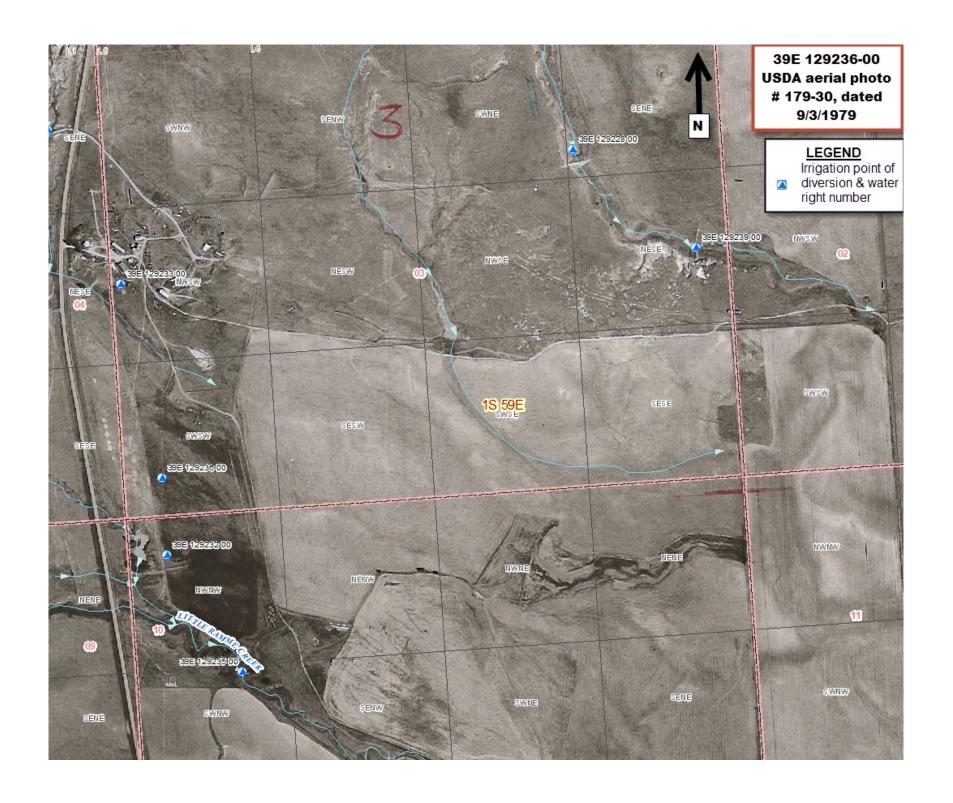
ACCORDING TO CADASTRAL PROPERTY OWNERSHIP RECORDS, AS OF 07/03/2018, THE PROPERTY ON WHICH THIS WATER RIGHT IS USED APPEARS TO BE OWNED BY JED R HENDRICKS.

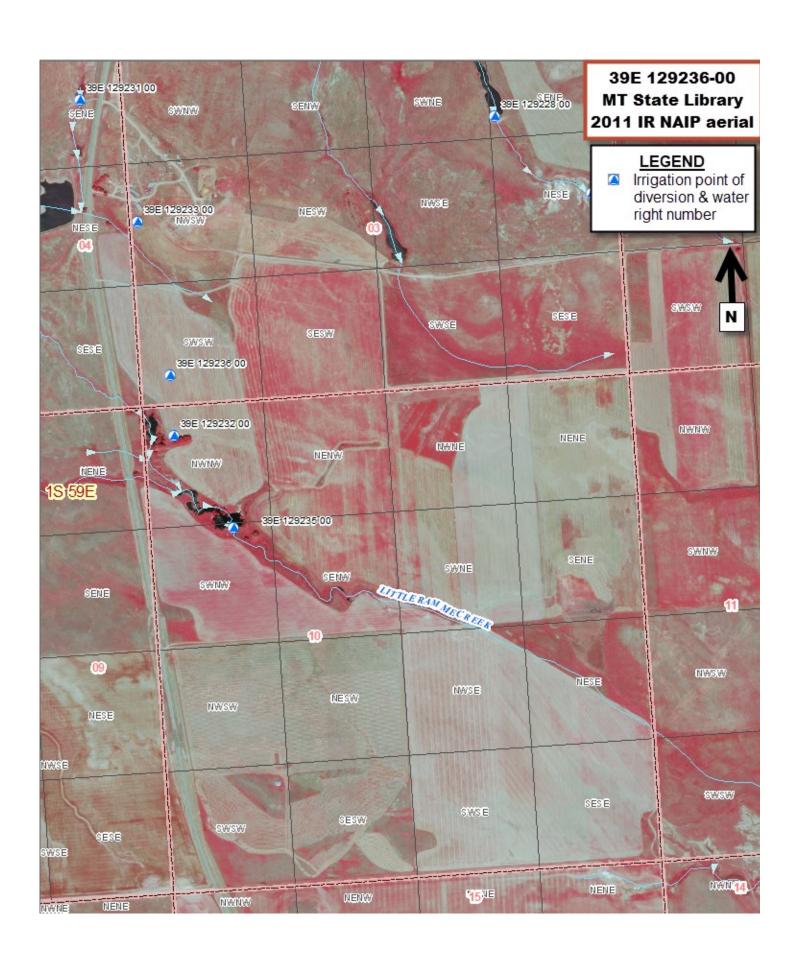
EXISTENCE OF THE CLAIMED RESERVOIR CANNOT BE CONFIRMED WITH AVAILABLE DATA.

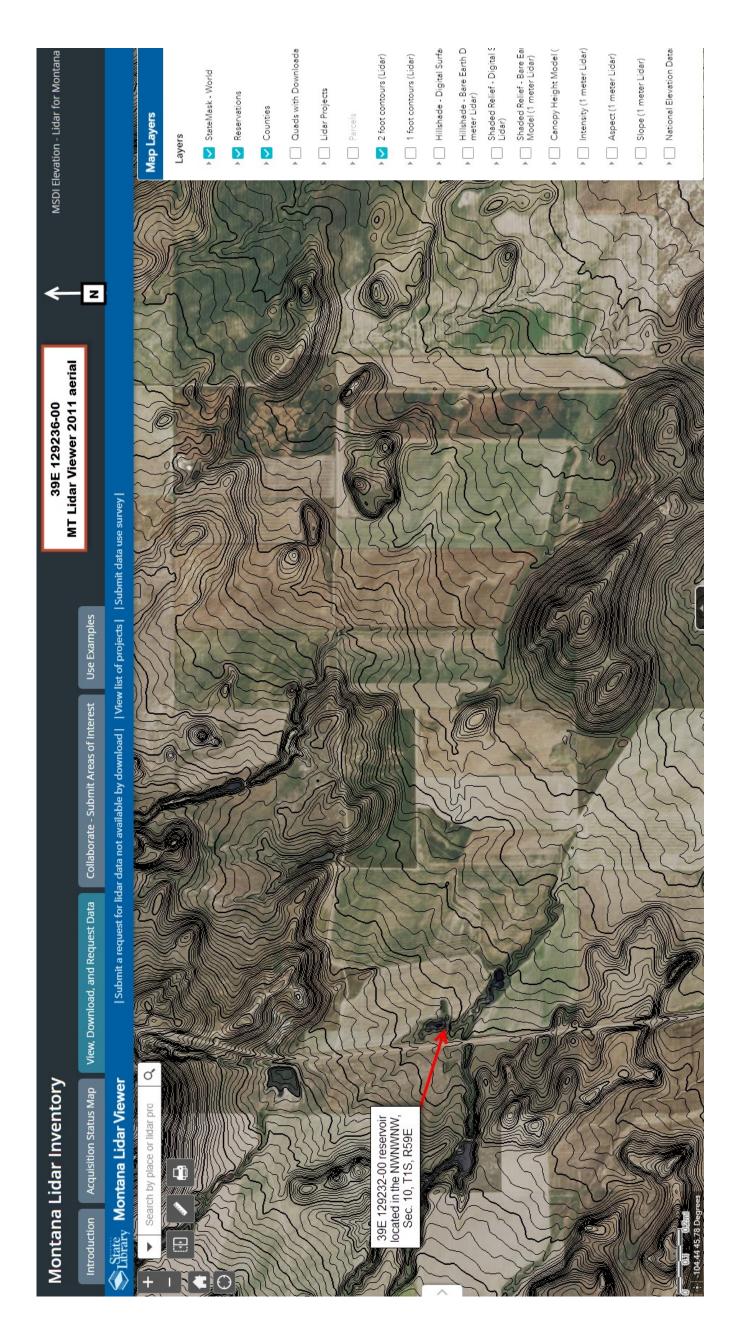
R100

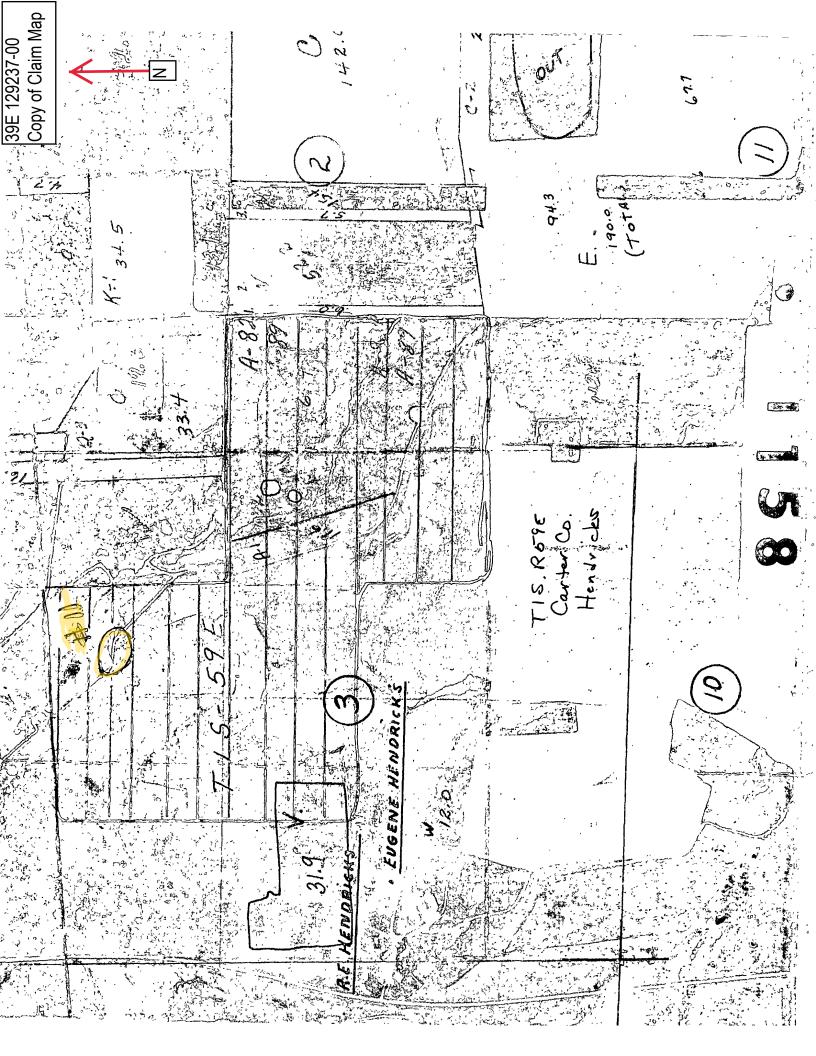




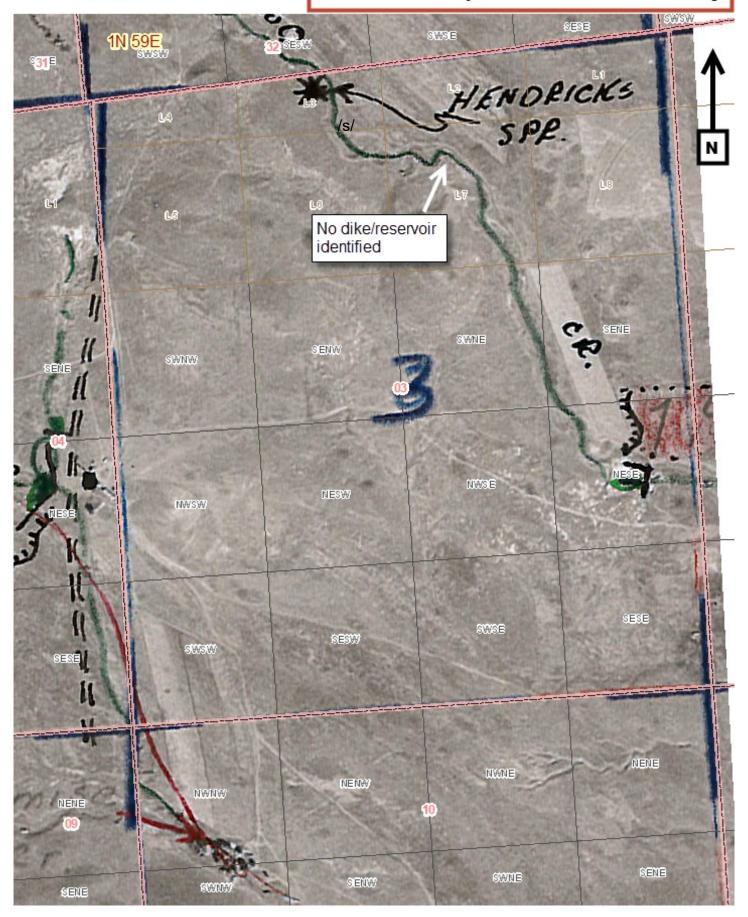


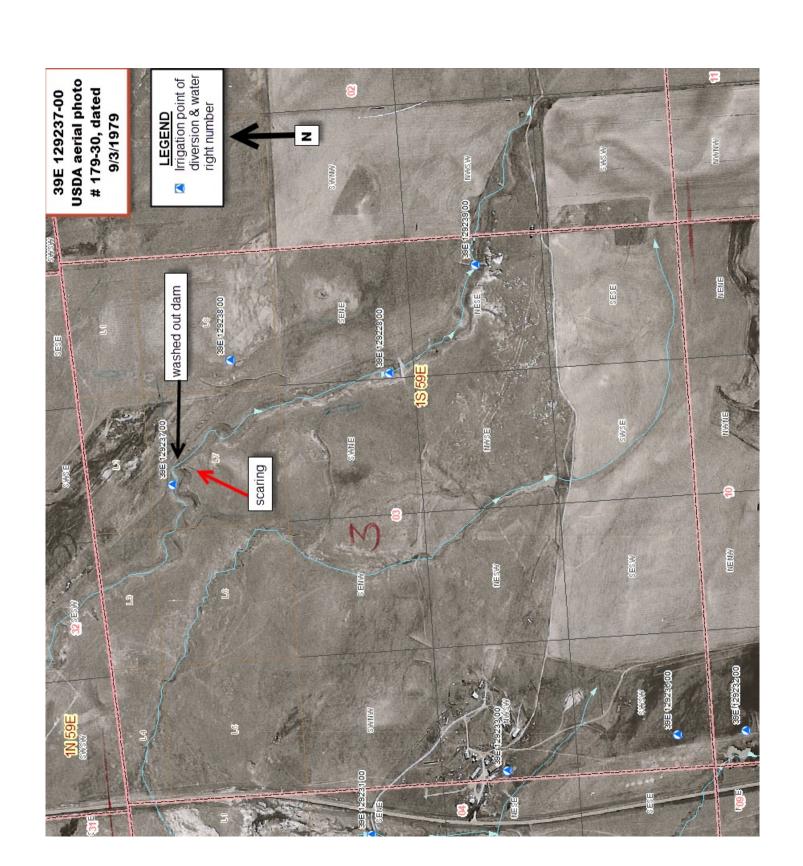


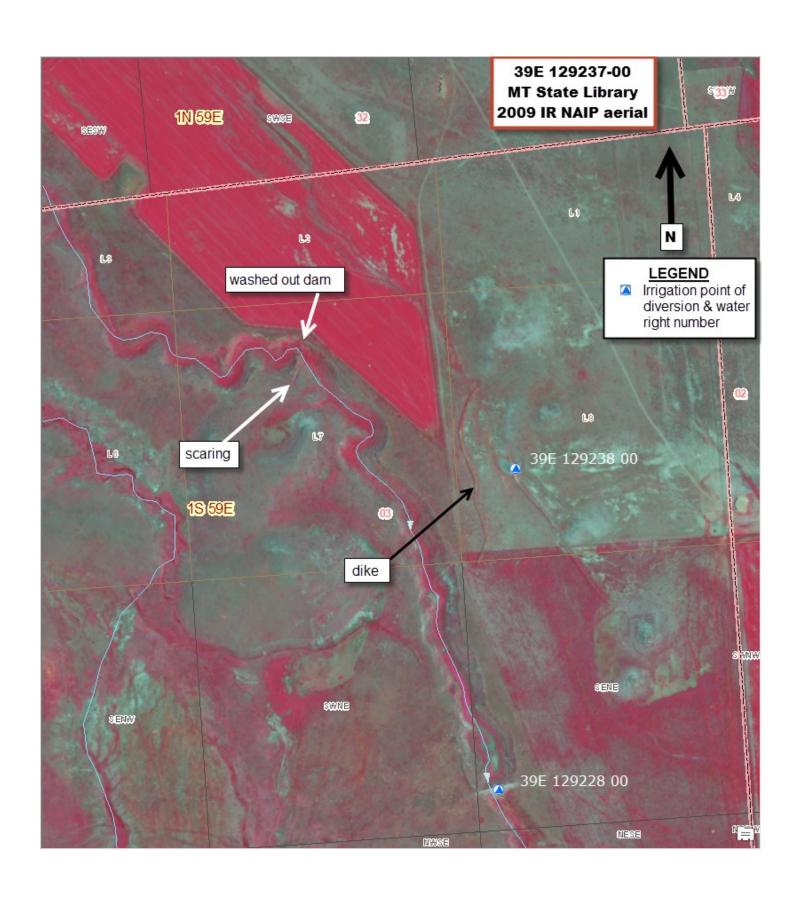


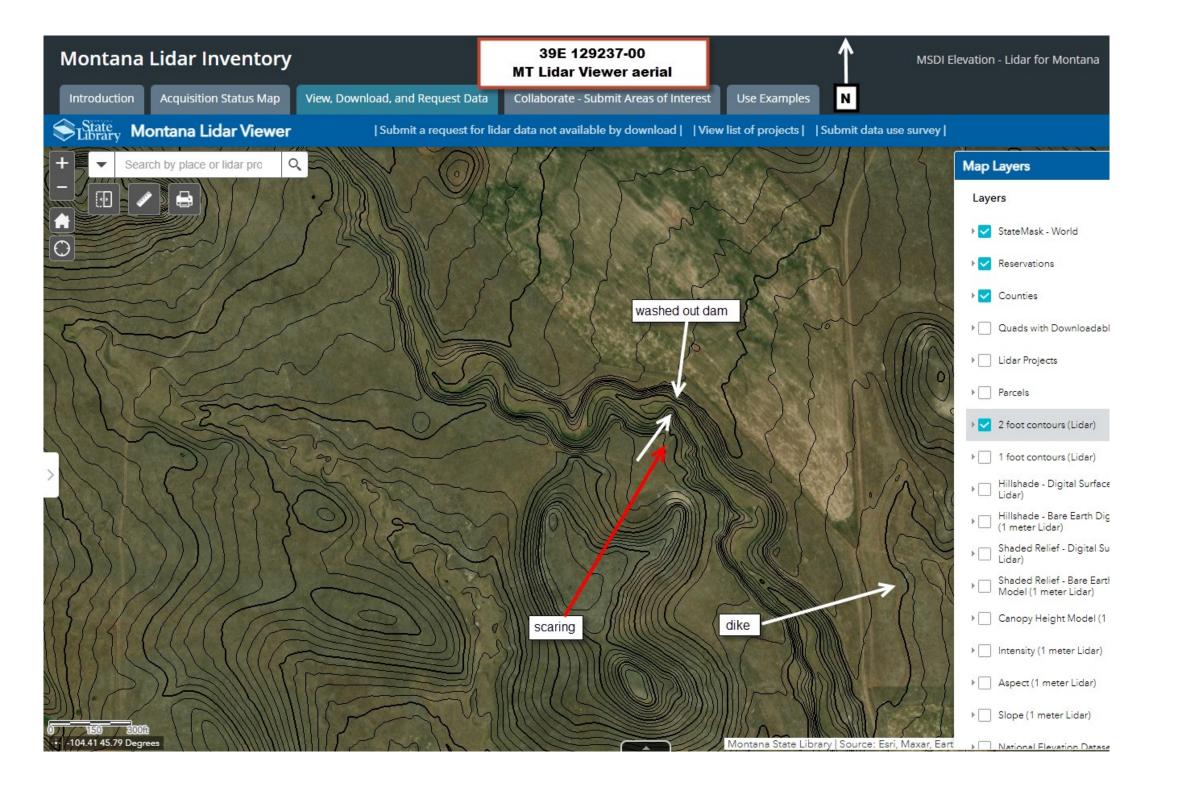


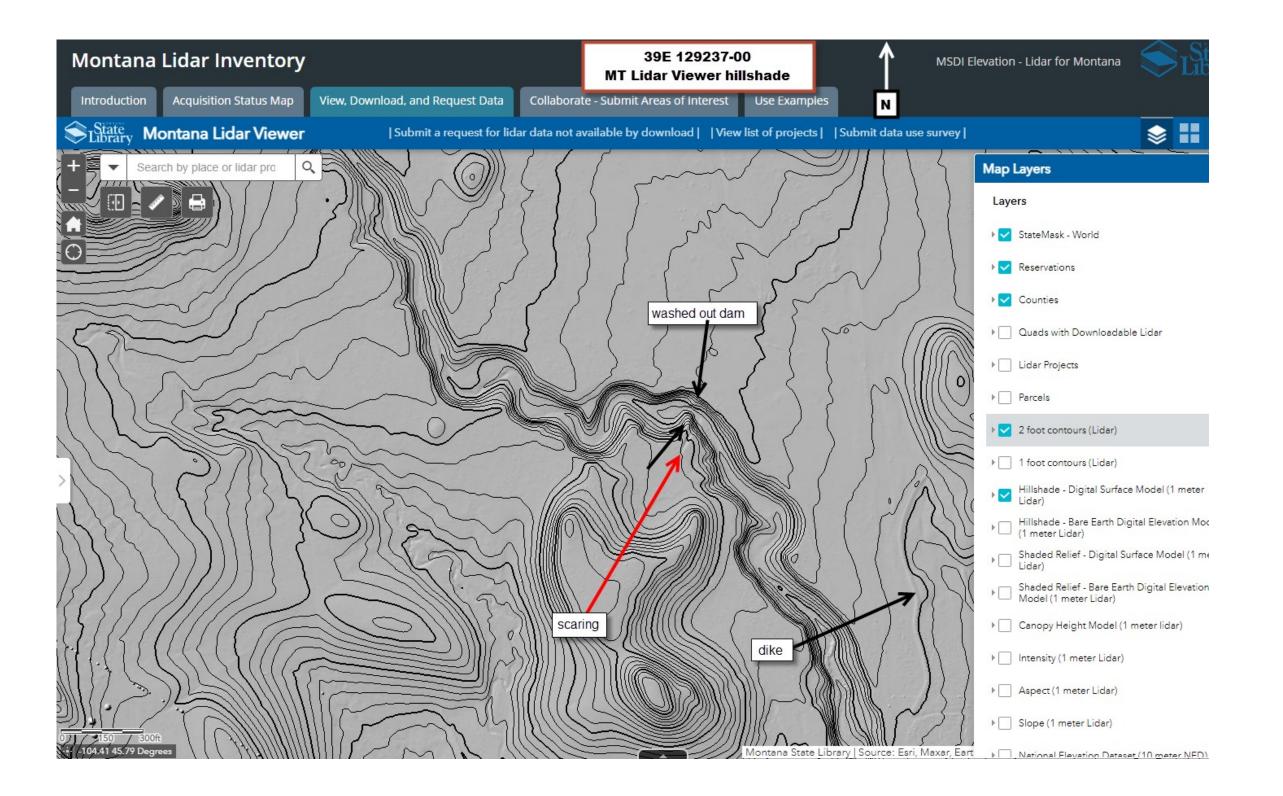
39E 129237-00 1944 WRS aerial photo with 1960 WRS Survey











POST DECREE

ABSTRACT OF WATER RIGHT CLAIM

BOXELDER CREEK

BASIN 39E

Water Right Number: 39E 129236-00 STATEMENT OF CLAIM

Version: 3 -- POST DECREE

Status: DISMISSED

Owners: JAMES L HENDRICKS

961 HWY 323

EKALAKA, MT 59324

JED R HENDRICKS 104 BREDING RD EKALAKA, MT 59324

Priority Date:

Type of Historical Right:

Purpose (use): IRRIGATION

Flow Rate:

Volume:

Source Name: UNNAMED TRIBUTARY OF LITTLE RAMME CREEK

Source Type: SURFACE WATER

Point of Diversion and Means of Diversion:

Period of Use:

Place of Use:

Remarks:

THIS CLAIM WAS DISMISSED BY ORDER OF THE WATER COURT.

POST DECREE

ABSTRACT OF WATER RIGHT CLAIM

BOXELDER CREEK

BASIN 39E

Water Right Number: 39E 129237-00 STATEMENT OF CLAIM

Version: 3 -- POST DECREE

Status: DISMISSED

Owners: JAMES L HENDRICKS

961 HWY 323

EKALAKA, MT 59324

JED R HENDRICKS 104 BREDING RD EKALAKA, MT 59324

Priority Date:

Type of Historical Right:

Purpose (use): IRRIGATION

Flow Rate:

Volume:

Source Name: UNNAMED TRIBUTARY OF LITTLE RAMME CREEK

Source Type: SURFACE WATER

Point of Diversion and Means of Diversion:

Period of Use:

Place of Use:

Remarks:

THIS CLAIM WAS DISMISSED BY ORDER OF THE WATER COURT.